



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/777,846 | 02/12/2004 | William L. Tonar | GEN 10 P-394A | 5891 |
| 28469 | 7590 | 07/27/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| PRICE, HENEVELD, COOPER, DEWITT, & LITTON, LLP/GENTEX CORPORATION 695 KENMOOR, S.E. P O BOX 2567 GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49501 | | | THOMAS, BRANDI N | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2873 | |
| DATE MAILED: 07/27/2005 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/777,846

Applicant(s)

TONAR ET AL.

Examiner

Brandi N Thomas

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/6/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 30-36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 23-25, 27 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19-22, 26 and 27 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.


Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


RICKY MACK
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: Detailed Action.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Angell et al. (5821867).

Regarding claim 1, Angell et al. discloses, in figure 3, a vehicle information display assembly, comprising: a light source (29) positioned behind a transfective reflector (24) with respect to a viewer (16) (col. 2, lines 40-42); and a controller (33) configured to generate a light source (29) control signal as a function of light rays (28, 36, and 38) originating from said light source (29) and light rays (28 and 32) reflected by said reflector (24) (col. 3, line 14).

Regarding claim 2, Angell et al. discloses, in figure 3, a vehicle information display assembly, wherein light rays (28, 36, and 38) originating from said light source (29) are a function of the energy supplied to said light source (29) (col.3, lines 15-19).

Regarding claim 3, Angell et al. discloses, in figure 3, a vehicle information display assembly, wherein by said reflector (24) are a function of light rays (32) directed toward said reflector (24).

Regarding claims 5 and 17, Angell et al. discloses, in figure 3, a vehicle information display assembly, comprising: a light source (29) positioned behind a transfective reflector (24)

Art Unit: 2873

with respect to a viewer (16) (col. 2, lines 40-42), and a controller (33) configured to receive a light level signal, said controller is further configured to generate a light source control signal as a function of light rays (28, 36, and 38) originating from said light source (29) and light rays (28 and 32) reflected by said reflector (24) (col. 3, line 14) when said light level signal is above a threshold.

Regarding claim 6, Angell et al. discloses, in figure 3, a vehicle information display assembly, wherein light rays (28, 36, and 38) originating from said light source (29) are a function of the energy supplied to said light source (29) (col.3, lines 15-19).

Regarding claim 7, Angell et al. discloses, in figure 3, a vehicle information display assembly, wherein by said reflector (24) are a function of light rays (32) directed toward said reflector (24).

Regarding claims 9 and 13, Angell et al. discloses, in figure 3, a vehicle information display assembly, comprising: a light source (29) positioned behind a transfective reflector (24) with respect to a viewer (16) (col. 2, lines 40-42); and a controller (33) configured to control a ratio of light rays (28, 36, and 38) originating from said light source (29) with respect to light rays (28 and 32) reflected by said reflector (24) (col. 3, line 14).

Regarding claims 10 and 14, Angell et al. discloses, in figure 3, a vehicle information display assembly, wherein light rays (28, 36, and 38) originating from said light source (29) are a function of the energy supplied to said light source (29) (col.3, lines 15-19).

Regarding claims 11 and 15, Angell et al. discloses, in figure 3, a vehicle information display assembly, wherein by said reflector (24) are a function of light rays (32) directed toward said reflector (24).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 4, 8, 12, 16, and 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Angell et al. (5821867) as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Larson et al. (5285069).

Regarding claims 4, 8, 12, and 16, Angell et al. discloses, in figure 3, a vehicle information display assembly, having light rays directed (32) toward said reflector (24) except for a light sensor. Larson et al. discloses a light sensor. Therefore it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the device of Angell et al. with the light sensor of Larson et al. for the purpose of providing levels of light for easier display.

Regarding claim 18, Angell et al. discloses in figure 3, a vehicle information display assembly except for a light sensor. Larson et al. discloses a light sensor (18) for sensing ambient light levels wherein said controller (39) is coupled to said light source and said light sensor (18) (col. 3, lines 35-57), said controller (39) determines whether daytime or nighttime conditions are present as a function of the ambient light level sensed by said light sensor (18), and, during daytime conditions (col. 4, lines 16-20), said controller varies the brightness level of said display within a first range of brightness levels, and, during nighttime conditions, said controller varies

Art Unit: 2873

the brightness level of said light source within a second range of brightness levels, which is different from the first range of brightness levels (col. 4, lines 61-68 and col. 5, lines 1-4).

Therefore it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the device of Angell et al. with the light sensor of Larson et al. for the purpose of providing levels of light for easier display.

5. Claims 23-25, 28, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Angell et al. (5821867) as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Baumann et al. (6020987).

Regarding claims 23 and 28, Angell discloses the claimed invention except for front and rear elements, said elements each having front and rear surfaces; a transparent first electrode including a layer of conductive material carried on a surface of one of said elements; a second electrode disposed on said front surface of said rear element, and an electrochromic material contained between said elements, wherein either said second electrode is a reflective electrode or a separate reflector is disposed over substantially all of said rear surface of said rear element, and wherein at least a portion of said reflective electrode/reflector is transfective. Baumann et al. discloses, in figure 1, a vehicle information display assembly (110) wherein said variable reflectance transfective element is part of the information display, and wherein said variable reflectance transfective element comprises: front (112) and rear elements (114), said elements each having front and rear surfaces (112a and 114a); a transparent first electrode (116) including a layer of conductive material carried on a surface of one of said elements (col. 5, lines 43-45) a second electrode (120) disposed on said front surface (112a) of said rear element (114), and an

Art Unit: 2873

electrochromic material (124) contained between said elements, wherein either said second electrode is a reflective electrode or a separate reflector is disposed over substantially all of said rear surface of said rear element (col. 7, lines 17-21), and wherein at least a portion of said reflective electrode/reflector is transflective (col. 24, lines 41-46). Therefore it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the device of Angell et al. with the front and rear elements of Baumann et al. for the purpose of providing a transflective element to the information display.

Regarding claim 24, Baumann et al. discloses a vehicle information assembly (110) it is inherent to provide a computer video monitor as a means to display information onto the rearview mirror.

Regarding claim 25, Baumann et al. discloses, in figure 1, a vehicle information display assembly (110) wherein said second electrode overlying said front surface of said rear element, said second electrode includes a layer of white gold (col. 24, lines 48-51).

Regarding claim 29, Baumann et al. discloses a vehicle information display assembly (110) Wherein said second electrode including a first reflective coating and a second coating of transparent electrically conductive material (col.6, lines 5-11).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 30-36 are allowed.

7. Claims 19-22, 26, and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 2873

8. The prior art taken either singularly or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of the independent claim(s), in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The prior art fails to teach a combination of all the claimed features as presented in claim(s) 19-22, 26, 27 and 30-36, wherein the claimed invention comprises ranges of brightness are disjoint, represent separate portions of a wider continuous range, overlap, and a subset of the other; a light source for emitting light of a first color, a second color, and a third color; a substantially transparent electrically conductive layer has a thickness that is equal to an odd integer times the desired wavelength of light at which said substantially transparent electrically conductive layer is to be optimized divided by four, as claimed.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandi N Thomas whose telephone number is 571-272-2341. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5.

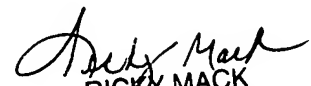
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Epps can be reached on 571-272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2873

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



BNT



RICKY MACK
PRIMARY EXAMINER